

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9418
INFO AMCONSUL MERIDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 16210

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MX, US
SUBJECT: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION OF EVENTS LEADING
TO ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF CUBAN CONSUL IN MERIDA

REF: STATE 309290

1. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT VISIT OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ATTORNEYS PROPOSED FOR MID-JANUARY, BE POSTPONED FOR 60 TO 90 DAYS. ONE REASON IS THAT GOM PROSECUTION OF ORESTES RUIZ HERNANDEZ AND GASPAR EUGENIO JIMENEZ ESCOBEDO, WHO ARE BEING HELD IN CONNECTION WITH ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, IS STILL BEING DEVELOPED AND IS UNLIKELY TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE JUNE OR JULY 1977. (LEGAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE HAS INFORMED ITS HEADQUARTERS OF THIS FACT SEPARATELY.) GOM ASSISTANCE IN RELATED INVESTIGATION BY U.S. IS LIKELY TO BE FULLER AND MORE READILY PROVIDED WHEN ITS OWN CASE IS MORE NEARLY COMPLETE THAN AT PRESENT.

2. EMBASSY APPROACH TO GOM ALONG LINES REFTEL COULD INVOLVE BOTH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND INTERIOR SECRETARIAT (GOBERNACION), WHICH HAS AN INTEREST SINCE BOTH RUIZ HERNANDEZ AND JIMENEZ ESCOBEDO ARE UNDER ITS JURISDICTION AS ALIENS. PERSONNEL IN BOTH MINISTRIES (AND IN GOM AS A WHOLE) ARE TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT NEW PEOPLE STILL LEARNING THEIR OWN
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JOBS AND INVOLVED IN SETTING UP THEIR OWN LIAISON WITH COUNTERPARTS. LIKEWISE, BECAUSE OF THESE CHANGES IN PERSONNEL, EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE STILL IN PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH NEW OFFICIALS. PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING WHAT JUSTICE WANTS IN THIS MATTER WOULD BE BETTER IN THE MID-MARCH TO MID-APRIL TIME PERIOD THAN IF THE REQUEST WERE TO

BE MADE AT THIS TIME.

3. WITH REGARD TO PARA 5, WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN OBTAINING SERVICES OF QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS IN MEXICO CITY OR MERIDA TO ASSIST THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ATTORNEYS. QUALIFIED MEXICO CITY INTERPRETERS CHARGE APPROXIMATELY TWELVE DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS PER HOUR. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MAY WISH CONSIDER CONTRACTING, BOTH IN MEXICO CITY AND IN MERIDA, A BILINGUAL MEXICAN ATTORNEY WHO WOULD BE MORE FAMILIAR WITH LEGAL TERMINOLOGY AND DOCUMENTATION. COSTS COULD BE IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$125-150 PER DAY. EMBASSY AND CONSUL MERIDA WOULD BE PLEASED TO COOPERATE IN OBTAINING QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS. WE SHOULD HAVE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF DATES AND ESTIMATED TIME SERVICES WOULD BE REQUIRED.

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